Landlord and Tenant

Report of the Committee for amending the Estates Land Act

* 18 Q.—Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the report of the Committee for amending the Estates Land Act will be published at an early date;

(*b*) whether any draft amending Bill has been prepared by Government for publication;

(*c*) whether the draft Bill, if any, prepared by Government will be placed again before a committee for examination of its provisions before being introduced in the Council;

(*d*) whether the Bill or proposals for amendment will be circulated for eliciting the opinions of landholders and Ryots' Associations in the Presidency before its introduction in the Council;

(*e*) whether in view of the present stage of progress of the proposals for amending the Estates Land Act, a Bill for amending the Estates Land Act will be introduced during the year 1928 or in the year 1929;

(*f*) who were the members of the Committee that sat for considering amendments to the Estates Land Act and who have signed the report submitted to Government;

(*g*) whether there were any dissenting minutes attached to the report; if so, by whom;

(*h*) whether there were any members of the Committee who at any stage (i) either declined to collaborate with other members in the deliberations, (ii) or resigned their seats for any reason or (iii) absented themselves from the meetings of the Committee from time to time without joining the other members in the discussion of the amendments; and

(*i*) the names of such members of the Committee?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Committee has not submitted a report. A draft Bill prepared by a sub-committee and purporting to be based on decisions arrived at by the Committee is now under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) No draft Bill has been prepared by Government.

(*d*) Any Bill that Government may propose to introduce will be published before introduction.

(*e*) A Bill will be introduced as soon as Government has considered the draft before them and has made its decisions thereon.

(*f*) & (*g*) Please refer to the answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*).

(*h*) & (*i*) So far as Government are aware no member declined to collaborate with the other members of the Committee during the deliberations. The following members resigned their seats for personal reasons such as ill-health or otherwise :—

Mr. K. Krishna Rao.
Mr. K. Raghunatha Rao.
Mr. B. Munuswami Nayudu.
Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.

There were occasions when members absented from meetings; but this as far as Government are aware was for private reasons.

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Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" With regard to clause (*b*), may I know when the Government proposes to introduce a Bill ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot prophesy, Sir. "

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that a previous Law Member said on the floor of this House, on 31st March 1927, that he would be introducing a comprehensive Bill ? These were his words. He said that ' he would be introducing a comprehensive Bill in August or September 1927.' In view of that statement, I would request the hon. the Leader of the House to give us a definite reply at least to clause (*e*), if not to (*d*) ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The hon. Member has demonstrated that my distinguished predecessor was an optimist. The Government have given the exact state of the case in the answer. Government will proceed with the consideration of the draft prepared by the sub-committee as soon as practicable. Having regard to the fact that the statement made by my predecessor could not be carried out, I am loath to make a similar prophesy myself "

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" With reference to clause (*e*), will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether at present there is any proposal at all of introducing a Bill on the subject ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The answer is given ' A draft Bill prepared by a sub-committee and purporting to be based on decisions arrived at by the committee is now under the consideration of Government.' The Government may adopt it with the necessary modifications."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" May I know how far have Government proceeded in considering the draft Bill and how long will they take to consider the draft ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I would ask the hon. Member to consider whether it is possible for any Government to answer that question."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" How long since has the Bill been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I think the draft Bill was submitted to Government about two months ago."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" In view of the fact that other provincial Governments have finished their consideration of their respective tenancy legislations, may I know whether this Government intend at all to take action in amending this Estates Land Act, during the lifetime of this Council ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I can assure the hon. Member that the Government intend to finish consideration of this Bill which has been prepared by the sub-committee and if they approve of it, or such portions as they approve of, will be introduced."